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Child Care Arrangements of Full-Time Working Mothers

summary

The ever-increasing number of mothers with children under 18 who enter the labor force raises questions about the type of child care arrangements which these women make for their children, especially those in the younger age groups. This survey made for the Children's Bureau by the Bureau of the Census indicates that in June 1958 there were a total of 2,873,000 women who were employed full time and had children under 12 years of age. They had an estimated total of 6,665,000 children under 18, of whom 5,073,000 were under 12. Fathers and relatives played a prominent role in the arrangements made for the care of these younger children by their mothers. Over 56 percent were cared for by one or the other. Nonrelatives provided care for about 1 out of every 5 of the children under 12. Only 121,000, or nearly 1 out of every 40, were in group care. About 401,000, or 8 percent of the total, were expected to care for themselves; virtually all were 6 years or older.

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Child Care Arrangements of Full-Time Working Mothers

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foreword

The Children's Bureau has realized for a long time that not nearly enough information about working mothers and their children is available.

Many facts about these mothers and what their employment means to their children are still unknown. As a first step in filling some of these gaps in our information, the Bureau contracted with the Bureau of the Census in 1958 to make a survey of the child care arrangements of these mothers, particularly for children under 12. The Bureau wanted to know how many mothers with children were working full time, what arrangements, if any, were made for the care of their children while they worked; whether or not the children were cared for at home or away from home.

This publication *Child Care Arrangements of Full-Time Working Mothers* reports the results of this survey. It reenforces something we have known for a long time—that as a country, we have long since passed the stage when regardless of the pros and cons it is realistic to inquire whether or not mothers should work. Financial pressure is a major factor in a mother's decision to work or not. Many mothers are in the labor force—in fact more than 7 million with children under 18. Almost 3 million working full time are mothers of children under 12—and their children number over 5 million. Moreover 2.5 million of these mothers have children under six.

A very large majority of the children, this survey showed, were provided care in their own homes. Many were cared for by relatives. Over 400,000 were cared for away from their own homes in homes of people not related to them. Only about 1 out of every 40 (a total of 121,000) were in group care. About 400,000 were expected to care for themselves. Virtually all of these were children 6 years of age or older.

Clearly the trend in our culture for the employment of mothers is part of a change so large, so strong, and so rapid that we must take it into account in our planning for children. Our task is to try to preclude any ill effects it might have on the children whose mothers are in the labor force, to learn more about how different circumstances and conditions affect children, and to use what we learn in their behalf.

Although this survey gives no indication at all of the quality of the care children receive while their mothers work, we know that in many communities services of good quality are lacking. Despite gains made by States in licensing day-care facilities, the best that can

be said is that their number is increasing but that certainly both in quantity and quality the supply lags far behind the need.

What is the situation in most communities? For small children and for children with special needs, mothers may find care in family homes through informal arrangements with relatives or friends, on a commercial basis, or, more rarely, through social agencies. All the precautions necessary for home care would apply here, with even more emphasis on assurance about health, safety, and the emotional environment.

For preschool children from three on, the mother who does not have provisions for home care must make other arrangements—perhaps group care. In most communities she will be fortunate if she finds it, more fortunate if she finds a good version of it, and most fortunate indeed if she finds one of the best.

For the school-age child, the hours from about nine to about three are accounted for by the school. If the mother works part time, this may be enough. If she works full time, she will have to make arrangements for the care of her child after school. Too rarely are she and her child fortunate enough to benefit by the extended school services that are provided in an increasing number of communities.

For the mother thinking about employment, competent counseling can help her in looking at all sides of the question of working or not working and coming to a decision with which she can feel comfortable. In many communities, however, such counseling is simply not available. If available, counseling can be found in a number of places, including not only social agencies but also some day-care centers and some information centers. More of these services are needed and more use should be made of them.

How are we going to meet the problems of the working mother and her children? Just as we have met problems before—through individuals and groups, working separately and together for better community services—struggling and stumbling and trying again to keep abreast with the rapid changes occurring in our culture.

We cannot offer a blueprint of what the next few years will bring. But along with others we at the Children's Bureau shall learn all we can about the problems of employed mothers and their children and do all we can to help meet them. This publication is a first step in that direction.

Katherine B. Oettinger

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Child Care Arrangements of Full-Time Working Mothers

One of the most significant social and economic trends of the past two decades has been the continuing increase—both in numbers and in proportion—of women in the labor force. In numbers this increase was from 13,840,000 in March 1940 to 22,000,000 in March 1958.[1] In proportion it was from 27.4 percent of the female population 14 years of age or over to 35.0 percent. The significance of this increase becomes more apparent when we recognize that a substantial part of it can be attributed more and more to married women. The proportion of married women in the labor force nearly doubled between March 1940 and March 1958 (16.7 to 31.4 percent).

To the Children's Bureau, with its concern for the welfare of children, the importance of these statistics resides in the fact that among the 16,636,000 women in the labor force in March 1958, who were or had been married, there were 7,494,000 who had children under 18 years of age. This was 80 percent more than the 4,163,000 women with children under 18 years of age in the labor force in April 1948.

How many of these mothers worked full time, and how many children there were in the families of mothers working full time, were two basic questions for which there were no answers. Other unanswered questions were: Who takes care of the children of working mothers? Are they cared for at home or away from home? How adequate is the care they receive while their mothers work? To what extent do these mothers have need for more adequate child care arrangements? To fill some of these gaps in knowledge, the Children's

[1] All figures on the labor force are either quoted from the series of Current Population Reports of the Bureau of the Census or were made available by the Bureau of the Census from unpublished data.

Bureau contracted with the Bureau of the Census in the spring of 1958 to obtain information on the child care arrangements of a specific group of working mothers: *those who worked full time and had children under 12 years of age.* This limitation on the survey was dictated by certain technical difficulties in data collection as well as by restrictions on the amount of funds which could be expended for this purpose. The questions asked about the children concerned their ages, who usually looked after them while they were out of school and their mothers were at work, and where this care was provided. In addition, a question was included on the number of children 12 to 17 years of age which these mothers had. The survey was conducted by the Bureau of the Census in the course of its June 1958 Current Population Survey.[2]

[2] See appendix for definitions, source of data and reliability of estimates.

Mothers Employed Full Time With Children Under 12

During the survey month, June 1958,[3] there were an estimated 2,873,000 women in the labor force who were working full time and had at least one child under 12. These women accounted for about 1 out of every 7 mothers in the country as a whole, and for about 1 out of every 2 mothers in the labor force, who had a child of this age. Thus, only about 53 percent of the women in the labor force with children under 12 were employed full time. Unfortunately, there are no data to indicate the extent and direction of changes in this proportion in the last decade. The fact remains, however, that nearly half of the mothers in the labor force in June 1958 who had children under 12 were working on a part-time basis or were unemployed.

Marital status and family size

The large majority of the mothers with children under 12, and working full time in June 1958, were married women living in the same household as their husbands. There were 2,334,000 such, representing 81 percent of all mothers working full time with children under 12. Another estimated 231,000 mothers had husbands absent from home because of separation, service in the Armed Forces, hospitalization for mental illness, imprisonment or who were not in the household for other reasons. Another 308,000 of them were either divorced from their husbands or widowed.

On the average, the number of children under 18 in the families of these mothers did not differ from the average number of children

[3] The survey was conducted in June 1958 but questions about care of children related to May in order to cover arrangements at a time when most children were in school. Therefore, some mothers working full time in June but not in May were excluded from this survey.

in all those families in the United States which have children. Both had an average of 2.3 children.[4]

Among them about one-third had 1 child, another third had 2 children each, nearly a fifth had 3 children each, and slightly more than a seventh had 4 or more children. Those mothers living in rural areas had a slightly higher average number of children than the mothers living in urban areas, 2.5 as compared to 2.2. Table 1 provides data on number of children by marital status of the mother.

Table 1. Mothers employed full time with children under 12: Marital status and number of children under 18, June 1958

(In thousands)

Marital status	Total mothers	Mothers having specified number of children				Total children
		1	2	3	4 or more	
Total	2,873	931	951	534	457	6,665
Married	2,565	796	849	490	430	6,057
Husband present	2,334	700	778	458	398	5,570
Husband absent	231	96	71	32	32	487
Widowed or divorced	308	135	102	44	27	608

Children in specific age groups in working-mother families

When classified by the presence of children in the age groups under 6, 6–11 years, and 12–17 years, the largest number of families with children under 18 in the United States are those with children under 6 years of age only; the next largest number are those with at least one child under 6 and one between 6 and 11. As might be anticipated, the families with at least one child under 6 have less representation proportionately among women in the labor force than those without such children. Only one exception precludes the generalization that mothers with children under 6 are less likely than mothers with children 6 or more years old to be in the labor force and working full time. The exception is the mother who in addition to having a child under 6 also has one who is 12 to 17 years old. This is indicated by the data in table 2, which show that about 1 out of every 10 women

[4] See U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P–60, No. 30, December 1958, table 6, p. 22.

in the United States with children under 6 only or in addition children 6 to 11 years old is employed on a full-time basis. The ratio for women with children 6 to 11 years old only or in addition children 12 to 17 is about 1 out of every 5. The data also indicate that about 7 out of every 10 women in the labor force with children under 6 and 12 to 17 are employed full time.

Urban-rural differences in the presence of specific age groups of children are not significant. In both areas about 51 percent of the women have at least one child under 6. The most notable difference is that a higher proportion of mothers in rural areas than in urban areas also had a child 12 to 17 years old.

Table 2. All mothers in the labor force and mothers employed full time with children under 12: Labor force participation rates, by presence of children in specific age group

Specific age group	Number of mothers [1] (in thousands)			Percent of civilian population	
	In civilian population	In total labor force	Employed full time	In labor force	Employed full time
No children under 6	11, 297	4, 647	(2)	41. 1	(2)
Some 6–11 only	3, 433	1, 356	713	39. 5	20. 8
Some 6–11 and 12–17	3, 239	1, 205	708	37. 2	21. 9
Some 12–17 only	4, 625	2, 086	(2)	45. 1	(2)
Some children under 6	14, 146	2, 847	1, 452	20. 1	10. 3
Under 6 only	6, 600	1, 350	697	20. 5	10. 6
Some 6–11	5, 018	897	438	17. 9	8. 7
Some 12–17	586	156	109	26. 6	18. 6
Some 6–11 and 12–17	1, 942	444	208	22. 9	10. 7

[1] Unpublished data on civilian population and on total labor force as of March 1958 from Bureau of the Census.
[2] Not available.

Mothers working full time who reside in the Northeast [5] are more likely to have children in the older age groups. About 42 percent of them have a child who is 12 to 17 years old. The proportion of mothers in the other regions with a child of this age ranged from 32 to 36 percent. Conversely, the proportion of working mothers in the Northeast all of whose children were under 6 was lower than that for the other regions. In addition, a smaller proportion of them

[5] See appendix for list of States in each of the four regions referred to in this survey.

have a child 6 to 11 years old as well as one under 6, than is the case with mothers in the other areas. This suggests the possibility that mothers in this region with young children are not as prone to enter the full-time working labor force as are such mothers in other regions.

Table 3. Mothers employed full time with children under 12: Presence of children in specific age group, and residence, June 1958

Specific age group	Total mothers	Regional residence				Urban-rural residence	
		Northeast	North-central	South	West	Urban	Rural
Number---(thousands)--	2, 873	633	684	1, 061	495	1, 823	1, 050
Percent distribution-----	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Under 6 only---------	24. 3	21. 2	24. 1	26. 1	24. 4	25. 8	21. 5
Under 6 and 6–11-----	15. 3	11. 0	17. 3	16. 2	15. 8	14. 6	16. 3
6–11 only----------	24. 8	26. 1	22. 5	24. 2	27. 7	26. 3	22. 3
Under 12 and 12–17---	35. 6	41. 7	36. 1	33. 5	32. 1	33. 3	39. 9

Occupational Group, Color and Marital Status

Of all the women in the labor force in March 1958 who were or had been married, the largest proportion were clerks or sales personnel and the smallest proportion were farmers or farm laborers. This holds true, also, for the mothers who were employed full time in June 1958 with children under 12. There were some differences, however, in the distributions of these groups by occupational categories, as indicated by the data in table 4. There was a higher proportion of clerks and sales personnel and a lower proportion of women in professional and managerial positions among the women employed full time in June 1958 with children under 12 years of age than among the total group of women in the labor force in March 1958 who were or had been married.

Among the white mothers employed full time with children under 12, the largest proportion were clerks or sales personnel; among the nonwhite the largest proportion were household or service workers. Another difference in the distribution of the white and nonwhite mothers is that among the former there is a larger proportion in professional and managerial positions than among the latter. Farm-

ers and farm laborers are represented to a greater extent among the nonwhite mothers than they are among the white mothers. The proportion of women who are craftsmen, operators, or laborers in each group is about the same.

As the data in table 4 show the most significant differences between mothers who are married with husband present and those of another marital status, is that among the former there is a higher proportion of women who are farmers or farm laborers than among the latter and a lower proportion of women who are private household or service workers.

Table 4. Mothers employed full time with children under 12: Occupation, color, and marital status, June 1958

Occupation of mother	Ever-married women in labor force March 1958 [1]	Mothers employed full time with children under 12				
		Total	Color		Marital status	
			White	Nonwhite	Married, husband present	Other
Number.....(thousands)..	15, 475	2, 873	2, 468	405	2, 334	539
Percent distribution.....	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Professional and managerial..	16. 9	13. 3	14. 3	7. 4	13. 7	11. 5
Clerical and sales.....	35. 0	39. 1	43. 8	10. 8	39. 1	39. 4
Craftsmen, operators, laborers.	18. 7	19. 6	20. 1	16. 1	19. 7	19. 1
Private household or service workers.....	25. 9	21. 6	17. 0	49. 6	20. 1	27. 8
Farmers or farm laborers.....	3. 5	6. 4	4. 8	16. 1	7. 4	2. 2

[1] U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Labor Force, Series P–50, No. 87, January 1959, p. 15.

Regional and urban-rural residence

About two out of every three of the mothers resided in an urban area. Regionally, this ratio varied. In the South, the 1,061,000 mothers were about equally divided between those residing in urban areas and those residing in rural areas. In the North-central States and in the West, about 7 out of every 10 mothers resided in urban areas, while in the Northeast about 3 out of every 4 resided in urban areas.

Table 5. Mothers employed full time with children under 12: Regional and urban-rural residence, June 1958

Region	Total mothers	Percent distribution		
		Total	Urban	Rural
Total	2, 873, 000	100. 0	63. 5	36. 5
Northeast	633, 000	100. 0	74. 2	25. 8
North-central	684, 000	100. 0	69. 4	30. 6
South	1, 061, 000	100. 0	50. 6	49. 4
West	495, 000	100. 0	68. 9	31. 1

Children of Mothers Employed Full Time

Mothers employed full time in June 1958 with children under 12 had a total of 6,665,000 children under 18 of whom 5,073,000 were under 12. It was to the care of this latter group that this survey was especially directed. Among these children, 880,000 were under 3 and 1,159,000 were 3 to 5.

Color and age

Of the 4,158,000 children under 12 of white mothers employed full time, about 1 out of every 6 was under 3 years of age and about 2 out of every 9 were between 3 and 5 years of age. The proportion of those in the age group 6 to 9 years was slightly more than 1 out of every 3, and for those 10 and 11 years it was nearly 1 out of every 4.

Among the 915,000 nonwhite children, about one-fifth each were in the age groups under 3 and 10 to 11 years, a fourth in the age group 3 to 5 years, and about a third in the age group 6 to 9 years. This information for nonwhite children suggests that more nonwhite mothers must enter the labor force even though they have young

Table 6. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Age and color, June 1958

Age	Children under 12	Color	
		White	Nonwhite
Total number	5, 073, 000	4, 158, 000	915, 000
Percent distribution	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Under 3 years	17. 4	16. 5	21. 2
3–5 years	22. 8	22. 1	26. 2
6–9 years	35. 3	35. 9	32. 5
10–11 years	24. 5	25. 5	20. 1

children than is the case with white mothers. This might be due to differences in family income level between white and nonwhite families.

Ages of mothers

Data on the ages of the mothers employed full time in June 1958 with children under 12 were obtained only in relation to the ages of their children. These show, as might be anticipated, that a high proportion of the children under 6 have mothers under 30 years of age; similarly a high proportion of children 6 to 11 years have mothers 30 years of age or over. Perhaps more significant is the fact that about 1 out of every 5 among the 5,073,000 children is a child under 6 whose mother is under 30 years of age. This high proportion of young children with young mothers suggests the possibility that a considerable number of young families are affected by the necessity of the wife's working in spite of the presence of young children. This is an area in which some fruitful research might well be undertaken.

Another significant question for research suggested by these data centers around the fact that many mothers employed full time in the labor force, apparently enter upon full employment when their children are between 6 and 9 years old. It would be of interest to know the extent to which mothers aged 30 to 39 whose children are now 6 to 11 years old worked when they were under 30 and their children were under 6.

Age and marital status of mother

An overwhelming proportion—82 percent—of the children under 12 lived in homes including both a mother and father. Another

Table 7. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Age of child and age of mother, June 1958

Age of children	Children under 12	Age of mother		
		Under 30 years	30–39 years	40 years and over
Total number	5, 073, 000	1, 548, 000	2, 364, 000	1, 161, 000
Percent distribution	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Under 3 years	17. 4	36. 2	10. 8	5. 4
3–5 years	22. 8	32. 8	20. 6	14. 2
6–9 years	35. 3	25. 2	39. 1	40. 9
10–11 years	24. 5	5. 8	29. 5	39. 5

8 percent lived in homes in which one of the parents was absent, and 10 percent lived in homes which had been broken either by death or divorce. There were only slight differences in the age distribution for those children whose parents were married at the time of the survey, whether or not both parents were in the home. There were two significant differences between those whose parents were married and those whose parents were either widowed or divorced. In the latter group there were proportionately fewer children in the under 3 age group and proportionately more in the age group 6 to 9 years.

Age and urban-rural residence

The percent distribution of the children of mothers employed full time by urban-rural residence is similar, but mothers in the rural area have on the average more children. About 61 percent of the children lived in urban areas and 39 percent in rural areas.

The smallest proportion of children in either urban or rural

Table 8. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Marital status of mother and age of child, June 1958

Marital status of mother	Children under 12 (in thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	Under 3 years	3–5 years	6–9 years	10–11 years
Total	5, 073	100. 0	17. 4	22. 8	35. 3	24. 5
Married, spouse present	4, 185	100. 0	17. 7	22. 8	35. 0	24. 5
Married, spouse absent	396	100. 0	18. 7	23. 0	33. 1	25. 2
Widowed or divorced	492	100. 0	13. 0	23. 6	39. 2	24. 2

Table 9. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Age and urban-rural residence, June 1958

Age	Children under 12	Urban	Rural
Total number	5, 073, 000	3, 082, 000	1, 991, 000
Percent distribution	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Under 3 years	17. 4	17. 7	16. 7
3–5 years	22. 8	22. 4	23. 6
6–9 years	35. 3	35. 7	34. 7
10–11 years	24. 5	24. 2	25. 0

areas are in the age group under 3 years of age. As the data in table 9 suggest, in both urban and rural areas there was a progressively higher proportion of children in each of the higher age groups, up to the age group 6 to 9 years. In the age group 10 to 11 years, the proportion decreases but not below that for the age groups under 6.

Age of children and occupation of mothers

What relationship, if any, is there between the occupation in which a mother is employed and the age of her child? The data in table 10 indicate that there is a relationship, inasmuch as a child whose mother is engaged in a professional or in a managerial employment is less likely to be under 6 years of age than is the child whose mother is engaged in other occupations. This suggests that mothers in professional and managerial occupations may not enter the labor market as early as those in other occupational groups. This might be due to the family's financial status.

Table 10 also indicates that the largest proportion of children have mothers who are clerical or sales workers, while the smallest proportion have mothers who are farmers or farm laborers.

Table 10. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Occupation of mother and age of child, June 1958

Occupation of mothers	Children under 12	Percent distribution				
		Total	Under 3 years	3–5 years	6–9 years	10–11 years
Total	5, 073, 000	100. 0	17. 4	22. 8	35. 3	24. 5
Professional and managerial	641, 000	100. 0	14. 3	18. 9	40. 4	26. 4
Clerical and sales	1, 788, 000	100. 0	18. 5	21. 5	35. 2	24. 8
Craftsmen, operators, laborers	951, 000	100. 0	15. 1	21. 9	37. 1	25. 9
Household or service workers	1, 222, 000	100. 0	18. 5	28. 2	31. 9	21. 4
Farmers or farm laborers	471, 000	100. 0	18. 5	21. 4	33. 8	26. 3

Regional and urban-rural residence

Inasmuch as the majority of mothers in this study are concentrated in the urban areas of the Nation, so are the majority of the children under 12 of these mothers concentrated in these areas. This urban

Table 11. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Regional and urban-rural residence, June 1958

Region	Children under 12	Percent distribution		
		Total	Urban	Rural
Total	5, 073, 000	100. 0	60. 8	39. 2
Northeast	975, 000	100. 0	72. 3	27. 7
North-central	1, 254, 000	100. 0	70. 7	29. 3
South	1, 979, 000	100. 0	47. 3	52. 7
West	865, 000	100. 0	64. 2	35. 8

majority obtains in each region with one exception, the South. Here a majority of the children reside in rural areas, while only 47 percent reside in urban areas. It is to be noted also that nearly 2 out of every 5 children under 12 whose mothers are employed full time live in the South. These facts are significant from the standpoint of planning for the care of children in this area.

Child Care Arrangements of Mothers Employed Full Time

The principal questions asked in this survey were: Who takes care of the child under 12 years of age while the mother is working, and where is this care provided, in the child's home or the home of the person providing care?

Children provided care at home

A very large majority of the children were provided care in their own homes. This is consistent with the fact that many of them were provided care by their fathers or by relatives. Nearly 16 percent of the children were cared for by their fathers who were either employed at times different from that of the mother or were unemployed or were not in the labor force.

The largest group, 30 percent, were cared for in their own homes by relatives other than the father. As indicated previously, many of the mothers employed full time have children 12 to 17 years old. That these children were often the relatives providing care for the children under 12 is evident from the fact that 36.6 percent of the 1,525,000 children cared for in their own homes by relatives were cared for by persons under 18.

About 12 percent of the children were cared for in their own homes by nonrelatives. Among the 594,000 cared for in this way, 90,000 were cared for by neighbors and the remainder by other nonrelatives. Unfortunately, the survey could not be extended to explore the nature and circumstances of the care the children received from neighbors, or what the particular care provided by other nonrelatives consisted of.

Children cared for away from home

Only about 1 out of every 5 of the children were cared for away from home. Among these, as among those cared for at home, the role

of relatives as child-caring persons is definite. The children cared for by relatives away from home account for about 11 percent of all the children and 49 percent of those cared for away from home. The relatives caring for children away from home, unlike those caring for children in the child's own home, are virtually all 18 years of age or over. Whether these relatives were siblings, grandparents, aunts, etc., is unknown. The data, nevertheless, suggest that a study of the pattern of care of children of working mothers by relatives would provide some valuable insights into family life among those families in which the mother is employed.

Care for a child away from home by a nonrelative was arranged for about 9 percent of the children; about 2 out of every 3 of these were provided care by a neighbor. Thus, again, the neighbor looms as a significant resource for child caring arrangements.

Another group of children cared for away from their homes are those placed in day nurseries, day-care centers, settlement houses, after school centers, nursery schools, etc., who were considered to be receiving group care while their mothers worked. They accounted for 121,000 of the 5,073,000 children under 12 of mothers employed full time.

Children caring for themselves

In taking a full-time job, most mothers without doubt give consideration to the arrangements that must be made for their chil-

Table 12. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Child care arrangements and age of child, June 1958

(In thousands)

Child care arrangements [1]	Total	Under 6 years	6–11 years
Total	5,073	2,039	3,034
At own home by—			
Father	802	299	503
Relative:			
Under 18 years	558	148	410
18 years and over	965	417	548
Nonrelative	594	290	304
At caretakers home by—			
Relative	545	295	250
Nonrelative	440	258	182
Group care	121	91	30
Self	401	13	388
Other	647	228	419

[1] As of May 1958.

dren. One of the factors involved is the age of the child. The data on age of children of these mothers suggests that many mothers do not take full-time jobs until their children reach school age or until they pass their ninth birthday. Thus the child is in school most of the time the mother is working, leaving only the hours between the time of his dismissal from school and her return to work for child care arrangements to be made. Sometimes there is no arrangement other than the child's looking out for himself. Among the children covered by this survey, about 1 out of every 13 was expected to do this. The adequacy of this care was not ascertained; that it is inadequate for very young children is unquestionable.

Other child care arrangements

For about 1 out of every 8 children under 12 of mothers working full time, it was not possible to state exactly who cared for the child or where the care was provided. Descriptions of these arrangements given by the enumerators in this survey provide a graphic picture of how these children are cared for.

> "Babysitter takes care of child for 1 hour until daughter, age 18, returns from school—she then takes over."
>
> "Mother lives in apartment over drycleaning establishment in which she is the only employee . . . Mother is able to look after son while working."
>
> "Mother is grade teacher. She gets home and leaves the same time as the child does usually—on occasions when she can't be home with the child . . . stops at his grandmother's house until his mother comes home."
>
> "Aunt of the children cared for them from 2 p.m. until school was out and 13-year-old sister was at home. Mother worked until 10 p.m."
>
> "Mother is self-employed (motel operator). Their residence is at motel address; therefore, the child is under . . . mother's care at all times."
>
> "Father and grandmother."
>
> "After school child goes to YMCA and other boy's meetings so

is only home 1 or 2 nights a week right after school and then the father or grandmother is there to be with him and his sister—they are never left alone."

"Mother works night shift and is home all day."

"When working in fields, bring children along—baby takes nap in car."

"Works chopping cotton with mother."

"Child goes to field with mother while she works."

"Father and neighbor—the children are cared for at home by father, but neighbor across the street cares for children when both parents are away. The father works on day shift and mother in afternoon. One of the parents is there most of the time. . . ."

These remarks and others not enumerated here underscore two facts about child care arrangements of working mothers. The first, as already indicated by the data on children cared for by a specific person at and away from home, is the role of relatives and neighbors in the child care arrangements of working mothers. The second is the responsibilities which working mothers assume for the care of their children, either by taking them along to their place of employment as do some farm laborers, having employment immediately accessible to their homes and children, or confining their employment to certain hours assuring their presence at home when the children are not in school.

Age and child care arrangements

There were two significant differences on the basis of age in who took care of a child and where the care was provided. Generally, regardless of age, the majority of children were provided care by relatives or their fathers. About the same proportion (57 percent) of those in the age groups under 6 and 6 to 11 years were provided care in their own homes. The proportion of children in both age groups for whom "other child care arrangements" were in effect was 11 and 14 percent, respectively. One significant difference was that among the children under 6 there were proportionately twice as many

children cared for away from home (including those in group care) as among those 6 to 11 years old. The second significant difference was that while a very small number of the children under 6 were reported caring for themselves, about 13 percent, or 1 out of every 8 among those 6 to 11 years old, cared for themselves; for those age 10 to 11, this ratio increases to 1 out of every 5.

Occupation of mother and child care arrangements

The occupation of the mother, in part, determines the type of care which the mother arranges for her child. This was suggested by the excerpts noted previously in the presentation of the data on "other child care arrangements." An analysis of the child care arrangements by occupation of mother substantiates this further. Generally, it can be stated that children of mothers in the professional, managerial, farmer, and farm laborer occupations are provided "other child care arrangements" more often than children of mothers in other occupations; that children of mothers employed in domestic or other service occupations are provided care by fathers more often than other children, and that children of mothers in the clerical, sales, craftsmen, operative, and laborer occupations, as a group, are cared for away from home to a greater extent than children in the other groups.

Specifically, children whose mothers are farmers or farm laborers to a large extent have "other child care arrangements" or must take care of themselves. In fact, slightly more than 1 out of every 5 children whose mothers were in these occupations was caring for himself. Very few children of these mothers were provided care by their fathers. None were cared for at home by nonrelatives or in group care. These two latter facts, without doubt, characterize the farm or farm laborer family culture.

Among the children of mothers in managerial and professional occupations, about the same number were provided "other child care arrangements" as among those whose mothers were farmers or farm laborers. Another large group of them were cared for by nonrelatives at home. The data on care by nonrelatives suggest that the mothers in the professional and managerial occupations utilize the services of nonrelatives to care for children at home more extensively than do mothers in other occupations. Still another large group of children of mothers in professional or managerial occupations, accounting for slightly more than 1 out of every 5, are provided care at home by relatives 18 years of age or over. This ratio for children having

this type of care obtains for all occupational groups except that of farmers and farm laborers.

Children with mothers whose occupations were in domestic or other services were cared for by fathers to a greater degree than children with mothers in any other occupation. About 23 percent were receiving care from their fathers. Significantly, in comparison with children of mothers in other occupations, except farmers and farm laborers, a small proportion of these children were cared for by nonrelatives. About 1 out of every 7 of these children had "other child care arrangements."

One notable fact about child care arrangements for children of mothers in the clerical, sales, operative, craftsmen, and laborer occupations was the relatively low proportion for whom "other child care arrangements" were made. About 1 out of every 14 had this arrangement. Among children with mothers in other groups, this ratio ranged from 1 out of every 7 to nearly 1 out of every 3. Another notable fact about the child care arrangements for this group of children was that a higher proportion of them were in care away from home, as compared with children of mothers in other occupations. In fact, of the 121,000 children in group care, about 2 out of every 3 had mothers in the clerical and sales occupations.

Table 13. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Child care arrangements and occupation of mother, June 1958

(In thousands)

Child care arrangements [1]	Total	Professional and managerial	Clerical and sales	Craftsmen, operatives and laborers	Private household or service workers	Farmers or farm laborers
Total	5,073	641	1,788	951	1,222	471
At home by—						
Father	802	89	248	170	276	19
Relative:						
Under 18 years	558	34	153	104	145	122
18 years and over	965	139	350	183	245	48
Nonrelative	594	112	270	108	104	----
At caretaker's home by—						
Relative	545	37	237	136	106	29
Nonrelative	440	46	200	100	81	13
Group care	121	9	79	15	18	----
Self	401	39	129	61	69	103
Other	647	136	122	74	178	137

[1] As of May 1958.

Residence and child care arrangements

Several differences in child care arrangements for children residing in urban areas and those residing in rural areas are evident in the data obtained in this survey. The most noteworthy is that while 1 out of every 6 children in rural areas are cared for under "other child care arrangements," about 1 out of every 10 in urban areas have such arrangements. Another important difference is the greater degree, proportionately, to which children in urban areas are provided care by nonrelatives both at and away from home. Among the other important differences are the facts that proportionately more children are in group care and less are caring for themselves in urban than in rural areas. The latter fact reflects the data previously presented on care of children by occupation of mother.

The most outstanding regional difference in child care arrangements of the mothers in this study is that in the South a relatively small proportion of children are provided care by their fathers. About 9 percent of them had such care. By contrast, in the North-central States 24 percent, and in the Nation as a whole 16 percent, had this type of child care arrangement. That such a small group of children in the South were provided care by their fathers may be attributed to the fact that, as the data available suggests, many of their mothers

Table 14. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Child care arrangements and residence, June 1958

(In thousands)

Child care arrangements [1]	Total	Urban	Rural	Regions			
				North-east	North-central	South	West
Total	5,073	3,082	1,991	975	1,254	1,979	865
At own home by—							
Father	802	505	297	194	306	168	134
Relative:							
Under 18 years	558	283	275	90	116	261	91
18 years and over	965	654	311	200	225	380	160
Nonrelative	594	407	187	71	143	300	80
At caretaker's home by—							
Relative	545	307	238	115	98	250	82
Nonrelative	440	310	130	79	107	156	99
Group care	121	104	17	22	19	59	20
Self	401	201	200	83	72	185	61
Other	647	311	336	121	168	220	138

[1] As of May 1958.

were farmers or farm laborers. Throughout the Nation, the proportion of children of farmers and farm laborers provided care by their fathers is low. The southern group may also include a high proportion of nonwhite children for whom care by fathers is also relatively small. (See tables 13 and 15.) At the same time a higher proportion of children in the South, than in any other region, are provided care at home by relatives other than fathers and by nonrelatives—about 48 percent. In the other regions this proportion ranges from 37 to 39 percent.

Other regional differences are not as pronounced as these. The large proportion of children in the North-central States whose fathers provide them care decreases the proportion of children provided care away from home in these States. In the West proportionately more children have "other child care arrangements" than in any other region.

Color and child care arrangements

A smaller proportion of nonwhite children than white children are cared for by their fathers. This is counterbalanced, however, by the larger proportion of nonwhite children cared for by relatives, under 18, than obtains for white children. Another difference is the greater dependence proportionately upon neighbors for child care

Table 15. Children under 12 of mothers employed full time: Child care arrangements by color and marital status of mother, June 1958

(In thousands)

Child care arrangements [1]	Total	Color		Marital status of mother	
		White	Nonwhite	Married, husband present	Other
Total	5,073	4,159	914	4,185	888
Father	802	733	69	791	11
Relative:					
Under 18 years	578	404	174	455	123
18 years of age and over	1,490	1,171	319	1,101	389
Nonrelative:					
Neighbor	367	269	98	294	73
Other	667	622	45	577	90
Group care	121	106	15	67	54
Self	401	301	100	310	91
Other	647	553	94	590	57

[1] As of May 1958.

among the nonwhite group than among the white group. Other differences are that a larger proportion of nonwhite than white children take care of themselves, while a larger proportion of white than nonwhite children have "other child care arrangements."

Marital status of mother and child care arrangements

The child care arrangements for children whose mothers and fathers are living in the same household differs from those for children whose mothers are not living with their fathers. Among the former, the father provides the care for about 1 out of every 5 children, while among the latter he provides care for slightly more than 1 out of every 100. The role of the father in caring for the child in the instances in which the mother is divorced or has a husband absent from the home was not pursued.

The unavailability of a father to care for children of mothers not living with their spouses or with spouses deceased is counterbalanced by the high proportion of children cared for by relatives at home—44 percent by relatives 18 years of age and over, and 14 percent by relatives under 18. Children of these mothers are less likely than children of mothers with husband present to have "other child care arrangements," and more likely to be cared for in group care facilities or to be caring for themselves.

appendix

Definitions and explanations

Coverage.—The data presented in this report relate primarily to the civilian population of the United States which comprises all civilians living within continental United States, including inmates of institutions. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post (about 895,000 in 1958) were also included, but all other members of the Armed Forces were excluded. For simplicity, this population is called the "civilian population" in this report.

Employed full time.—Persons employed full time were those who worked 35 hours or more during the week prior to the survey for pay or profit or without pay on a family farm or business.

Labor force.—The civilian labor force comprises the total of all civilians classified as employed and unemployed. In addition to the "employed full time" group described above, the employed include those at work less than 15 hours for pay or profit during survey week.

Occupation.—The data on occupation relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs are classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The occupational categories used here are largely major groups in the classification systems used in the 1950 Census of Population. The composition of the major groups in terms of detailed occupations is shown in volume II of the reports of the 1950 Census of Population.

Age.—The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Color.—The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes

Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Marital status.—The marital status classification identifies three major categories: married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi-household even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as "married, spouse absent" included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily estranged from their spouse because of marital discord, married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouse was absent in the Armed Forces, immigrants whose spouse remained in other areas, husbands or wives of inmates of institutions, and all other married persons whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse.

Urban-rural residence.—The definition of urban and rural areas used in the present report is the same as that used in the 1950 census and sample surveys since that time. According to the new definition adopted for use in the 1950 census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (*a*) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages; (*b*) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are minor civil divisions of counties; (*c*) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas around cities of 50,000 or more; and (*d*) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. The territory classified as urban is the same as that in the 1950 census, since it is not feasible to take into account population growth in certain communities or annexations of territory since the census date.

Child care arrangement.—Child care arrangements are classified according to the place where the child was cared for while his mother worked and the person who provided him care. Persons were identified by relationship to child; relatives were further identified as under 18 years of age or 18 years of age and over; and nonrelatives were further identified as neighbors or others. Places of care were identified as at child's home or away from home, with the latter including group

care centers such as day nurseries, nursery schools, settlement houses, etc. Two general classes of child care arrangements provided for identifying children who were expected to look after themselves and children for whom multiple arrangements were made. Data on child care arrangements are as of May 1958 when most of the school-age children spent a considerable portion of the day in school.

Source of data.—The estimates are based on data obtained in the June 1958 Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The current sample design, instituted in May 1956, is spread over 330 areas comprising 638 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the then 48 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 households are interviewed each month. Another 1,500 occupied units, on the average, are visited, but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. There are also about 5,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

Survey week.—The information presented on employment status and other characteristics of the population relates to the week of June 8–14, 1958.

Estimating procedure.—The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex.

Rounding of estimates.—Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand being adjusted to group totals. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

Reliability of the estimates.—Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are also subject to errors of response and reporting. These may be relatively large in the case of persons with irregular attachments to the labor market.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, the variations that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and reporting errors but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data.

The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures presented in the table below are approximations to the standard errors of various characteristics. In order to derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of labor force items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, this table should be interpreted as providing an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than as the precise standard error for any specific item.

Table A. Standard error of level of estimates

Size of estimate:	*Standard error*
10,000	5,000
50,000	11,000
100,000	15,000
250,000	24,000
500,000	34,000
1,000,000	48,000
2,500,000	75,000
5,000,000	100,000

List of States by region

Northeast

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

South

Alabama
Arkansas
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maryland
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

North-Central

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

West

Arizona
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

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